Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in this application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of synchronizing control of one or more devices in a system during an operational cycle, comprising:

retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands to be performed by one or more of the devices in the operational cycle;

associating a current event command in turn with the predetermined event commands; and

responsive to the current event command being associated with a particular event command selected from the predetermined event commands, enabling one or more of the devices to perform the particular event command by transmitting a schedule command followed by a valid command to the devices, the valid command causing one or more of the devices intended to perform the particular event command, and the schedule command indicating a predetermined time for the particular event command to be performed, wherein the response to the current event command is unaffected by signal interrupts in the system, said schedule command being transmitted at a precise time.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

initializing the operational cycle prior to retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting the current event command to be associated with a first of the predetermined event commands after retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands to be performed by one or more of the devices in the operational cycle comprises:

reading the data from a memory; and

loading the data into the system.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands to be performed by one or more of the devices in the operational cycle comprises:

accessing a device external to the system; and

loading the data into the system from the device.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands to be performed by one or more of the devices in the operational cycle comprises:

retrieving a plurality of predetermined time-stamps each associated with corresponding ones of the predetermined event commands; and storing the time-stamps and the predetermined event commands in a memory.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands to be performed by one or more of the devices in the operational cycle comprises:

loading a list of the predetermined event commands each being associated with a time-tag in increasing order.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined event commands to be performed by one or more of the devices in the operational cycle comprises:

loading a sequential list of the predetermined event commands each being associated with a time-tag.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein associating a current event command in turn with the predetermined events comprises: determining whether the current event command matches in turn all of the predetermined event commands.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein associating a current event command in turn with the predetermined event commands comprises:

determining whether the current event command matches in turn selected ones of the predetermined event commands.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein associating a current event command in turn with the predetermined event commands comprises:

determining predetermined time-stamps from the data, each of the time-stamps being in increasing order and associated with a corresponding one of the predetermined event commands.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
measuring a clock time associated with the system;
        causing the current event command to represent the clock time; and
        matching the clock time with one of the predetermined time-stamps.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein associating a current event command in turn with the predetermined event commands comprises:
        recursively associating the current event command with each one of the predetermined event commands in sequence according to the increasing order of the time-stamps.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein enabling one or more of the devices to perform the particular event command comprises:
        responsive to the current event command being associated with the particular event command, transmitting at least one command to the devices.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein a first command includes the particular event command and an identifier indicating one or more of the devices intended to perform the particular event command.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein a second command includes a validation signal authorizing activation of the particular event command by one or more of the devices intended.

Claims 17-69. (Previously canceled)